of heavy industry. Therefore I would like to know from minister whether you would give the details of industries whose cost as higher than Rs. 5 crores? If the details are not readily available, would you send then later on?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, my other supplementary is the one which I had asked in part (d) of my question -

[English]

> "the average number of persons employed in the said industries during the last three years..."

But he has replied that these units currently employ around 54 lakh persons.

[Translation]

I wanted to know about the employment provided in those industries during the last three years, the reply is that till date 54 lakh persons. This is not the answer of my question. I wanted toknow how many persons could get employment during the last three years, when economic reforms are much talked about, you did not reply and told the figure of 54 lakhs. So please would you tell me the number of persons given employment during last three years?

[English]

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : Sir, we have wrongly understood the question. There is no concept of large scale industries. The classification in our Ministry is SSI units and non-SSI units. If the investment is Rs. 60 lakh or below, it is considered as a Small Scale Industry and above that limit, it is considered as a non-SSI unit. So, what we have done is, we have extrapolated these figures and arrived at these figures. If the hon. Member wants those figurs, I will be delighted to send her.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Sir, I wanted the employment figures for the last three years. He said that it is 54 lakhs.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : Sir, I do not have the figures now. I will send it to the hon. Member.

MR. SPEAKER : He will send it to you.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : That was my original question. So please direct him to give the reply as if the original question is being asked. I had specifically asked for it. How many persons were employed. He says 54 lakhs of people are employed. But this is no way to reply. Pleae give the instruction that if it has been asked to give details of three years in original question then he should give the total figures. How can you avoid giving reply or information. You can give this direction even after question Hour is over.

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## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

### Investment Promotion and Infrastructure Development Cell

*427. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :
SHRI RAJKESHAR SINGH :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a cell namely 'Investment Promotion and Infrastructure Development Cell' has been set up in his ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith its objects;

(c) the time by which the said cell is likely to start functioning; and

(d) the likely increase in the trade as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Industry has created an Investment Promotion and Infrastructure Development Cell in the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion vide office order dated 15-11-96. The main objectives of creation of this Cell are (i) to give further impetus to investment facilitation, (ii) to monitor investment approvals and (iii) to coordinate matters relating to infrastructure requirements for industry. The Cell has already started functioning from the date of its creation and is being strengthened.

(d) The objective of creation of this Cell is to boost up foreign investment with a special focus on infrastructure, which in turn would inter-alia contribute to increase in trade. It is not however possible to quantify this increase as it has become operational only recently.

### Assistance from ADB

*428. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total financial assistance provided to India by the "Asia Development Bank", till date;

(b) the details of the areas for which this assistance has been given, sector-wise;

(c) whether the said bank has threatened that it will not provide more financial assistance to India;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). The total loan amount approved for India by the Asian Development Bank

(ADB) till 18.12.1996 is US $ 6,605.3 million for the energy, transport and Communication, finance, industry and non-fuel minerals, and social infrastructure sectors.

(c) No Sir.

(d) and (e). Do not arise.

**Production of Coal**

*429. SHRI NITISH KUMAR :
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are possibilities to increase production and to reduce the production cost of coal in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any study has been conducted in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the coal produced in the country is costlier than the imported coal; and

(f) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to reduce the production cost of coal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b). There is considerable potential to increase production of coal in the country. The increase in production of coal so far in the current year is 8% greater than in the last year.

Steps bring taken to augment indigenous production of coal include the following :

(i) Opening up of new mines.

(ii) Increasing efficiency and productivity in existing mines by modernisation and application of new technologies.

(iii) Ensuring timely availability of inputs and infrastructural facilities;

(iv) Partial de-regulation of coal prices. This is likely to improve internal resource generation of coal companies which will enable new projects to be taken up. It will also improve the financial viability to be taken up. It will also improve the financial viability of new mining projects.

(v) The capital base of Coal India Limited has been restructured. This will enable it to raise additional financial resources from the capital markets which are requires to add new coal production capacity.

(vi) Steps are being taken in coordination with the Railways to remove the transportation bottlenecks in such coalfield areas which have potential for enhanced production.

(vii) Steps are being taken to remove the bottlenecks in land acquisition.

(viii) Private sector companies engaged in production of iron and steel, cement and generation of power have been permitted to take up coal mining. This is expected to increase domestic coal production.

The coal companies continually make efforts to effect economies in the cost of production of coal. Such steps inclue :

(i) Increasing opencast mining.

(ii) Increasing the efficiency of coal production.

(iii) Modernisation and mechanisation of existing coal mines.

(iv) Reduction in surplus labour.

(v) Ensuring better power supply by setting up captive power stations etc.

(vi) Observing strict economies in operational expenditure.

(c) and (d). Efforts to increase production while reducing production costs proceed on a continuous basis after detailed study of the existing conditions and taking into account the available financial and technical resources. This is a continuous process.

(e) A study conducted indicates that imported non-coking coal is costlier than domestic coal on calorific value basis at all locations in the country. Imported coking coal, however, does not appear to be costlier than domestic coal.

(f) Does not arise in view of answer to part (e) of the question.

*[English]*

**Revival Plan for Sick Companies**

*430. SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the cases referred to Industrial Finance Corporation of India by the BIFR during the last five years for the preparation of revival plan of sick companies both in private and public sector;

(b) whether the revival scheme could not be prepared by the Industrial Finance Corporation of India so far; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The Board for Industrial and financial Reconstruction (BIFR) had appointed Industrial Finance Corporation of India Ltd., (IFCI) as Operating Agency in respect of 111 sick industrial companies (93 private sector, 6 central sector and 12